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## Points of Interest

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### NST Quest

#### Annual Meeting

#### BMT in TN and NC

#### Cartecay Shoals

#### Maintenance Trip

#### Craddock to Shelter

#### Solitude at Bushy Head Gap

#### Blaze School

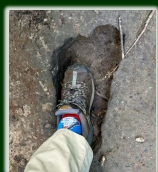
#### Where is Mike?

#### Warriors Passage

#### Lady Slippers

#### Upcoming

#### Stunning Cascades



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**BMTA Headquarters**

# Benton MacKaye Trail Association

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## What's New with the BMT and the Quest for National Scenic Trail Status?

Ken Cissna - Immediate Past President

The short answer to the question in the title is that “a lot” has happened. About a year ago, I wrote to you to let you know that a bill had been introduced in the House of Representatives—HR 3683—that would designate the Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT) a National Scenic Trail (NST). The news is that two weeks ago, we had TWO additional, bipartisan bills introduced, but this time one in the Senate as well as one in the House! Let me explain the need for the two most recent bills.

A bill to designate the BMT a NST was first introduced in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, but it didn't get far and expired when that Congress did. Last year's bill (HR 3683) in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress also would have directly designated the BMT as a NST. Unfortunately, we've been working at this for another year, but we haven't garnered enough support in Congress to let us think it had a realistic chance to pass.

So, now we're taking another tack. The two new bills direct the United States Forest Service (USFS), which would be our primary federal partner, to conduct a “feasibility study” of the BMT as a NST, rather than immediately designate it as one. I'm disappointed we couldn't get sufficient support for direct designation, but that's just the way it is. Most NSTs have had to have feasibility studies and we believe there is bipartisan support for this course of action.

Senators Raphael Warnock (D-GA) and Thom Tillis (R-NC) co-sponsored Senate bill 4352, which directs the USFS to conduct a feasibility study of the Benton MacKaye Trail as a National Scenic Trail.

In addition, an identical companion bill, H.R. 8403, was introduced in the House of Representatives by Steve Cohen (D-TN), Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN), Chuck Edwards (R-NC), Scott DesJarlais (R-TN), Lucy McBath (D-GA) and Nikema Williams (D-GA).

Please write or call your representatives and senators to thank them for their support and to ask for their active help in getting the bill across the finish line—or, if yours isn't on the list above, to encourage yours to sign on as a supporter and cosponsor.

Information for contacting your representatives can be found below:

<https://bmtamail.org/docs/NSTHowtoContactSenatorsRepresentativest.pdf>



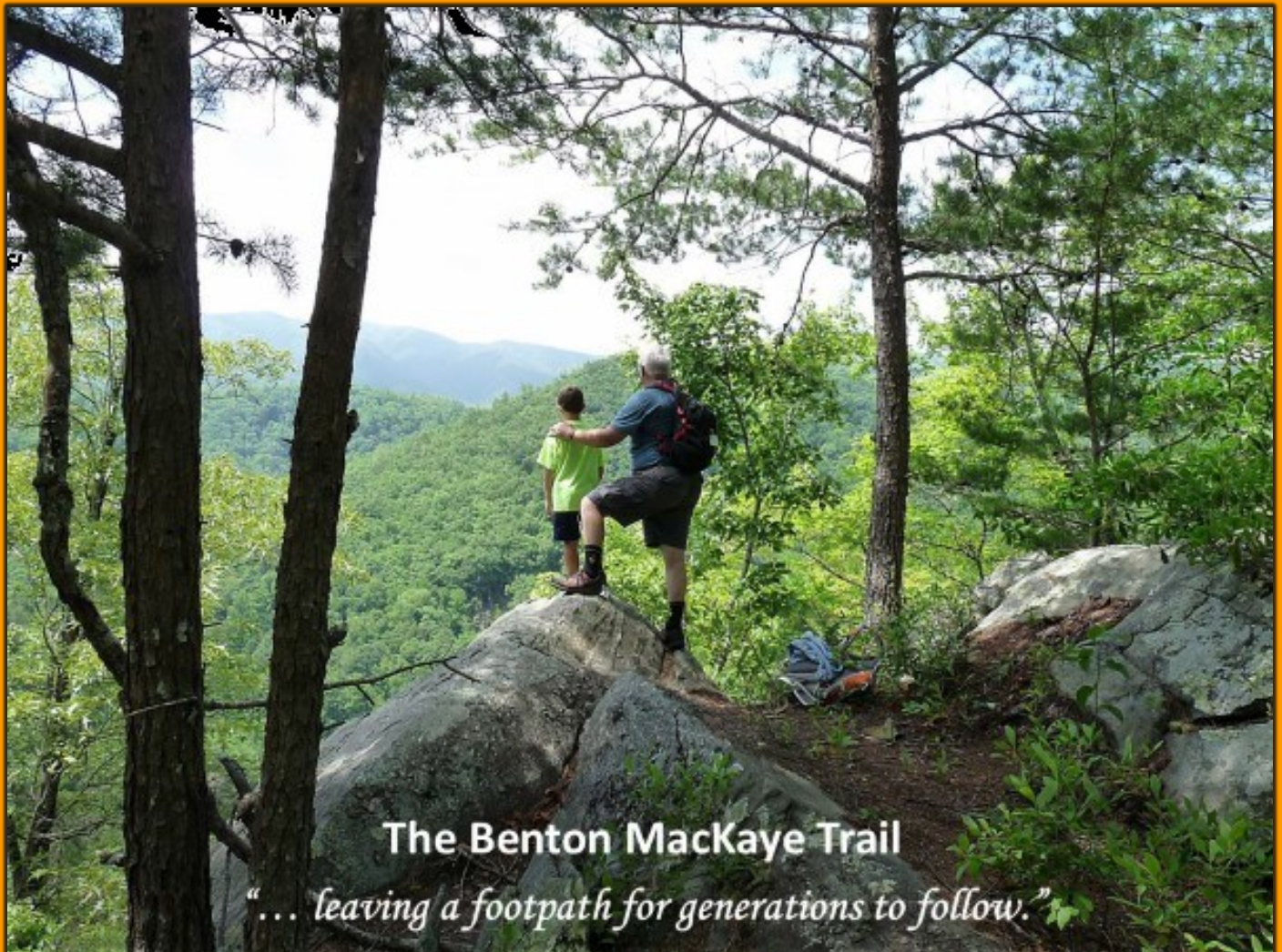
These bills emphasize the requirement for a feasibility study, which analyzes a trail's "long-distance trail viability." The federal agency conducting the study evaluates whether the proposed NST has the scenic, historic, natural and cultural features that qualify it for NST designation. Equally important, this evaluation also assesses both the ability of the nonprofit trail organization (in this case, that's us, folks, the BMTA) to manage and maintain the trail and the strength of its partnership with the federal agency administering the trail.

BMTA President Bob Cowdrick hit the nail squarely on the head in his comment:

**"We are confident," he said, that "the feasibility study will find the BMT meets or exceeds the criteria included in the study and is worthy of the designation, given that . . . the trail is known for its emerald-green forests, crystal clear streams, cascading waterfalls and exquisite panoramic views. The trail was completed in 2005. The BMTA has constructed/maintained the trail for 40 years and the Association has and will continue to work closely with both the US Forest Service and the National Park Service. Our credentials for NST designation are impeccable."**

Yes, indeed, we all agree with that!

National Scenic Trails were first authorized by Congress in 1968, with the Appalachian and Pacific Crest trails the first to receive this prestigious designation. Since then, nine additional trails have been established. But, it has been 15 years since Congress designated a new NST—it is past time for number twelve and we are ready!



**The Benton MacKaye Trail**

*"... leaving a footpath for generations to follow."*



**Book Your  
Room Today!**

## **BMTA's 2024 Annual Meeting & Hike Fest**

*Unicoi State Park & Lodge, Helen, Georgia*

**October 31 — November 3**



*Discounted Lodge Rooms*



*Some Cabins Discounted*



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**To receive your discount—Use Code 10280**  
**Mention the Benton MacKaye Trail Association!**

## Hiking the BMT in Tennessee and North Carolina

by Rick Harris

Do you have a hankering to hike the Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT) from the Ocoee River to Beech Gap or all the way to the border of the Smokies at Fontana Dam? Well, now is a great time to do that -- and take your dog with you. Your four-footed friend is a welcome traveler outside of the Smokies on the BMT. And if your dog is like my dog, your pet will love the adventure and the one-on-one time with you. Just keep your dog on a leash so your dog does not chase a bear, hog or some other critter. Every year dogs go missing in the Cherokee and Nantahala National Forests because they run away from their owner to chase something, even a squirrel, and can't find their way back to their owners.

Oh, and don't forget your kids as well. Especially on weekends and during the summer, this is a great way to introduce them to the outdoors. We took our kids on hikes starting at about age five. They thoroughly enjoyed the time with their parents and getting out in nature. Some kids will have an even better time if they bring along a friend.

The stunning beauty you'll see along the trail includes: the Ocoee River, the Hiwassee River, Buck Bald, the remains of the Doc Rogers' homesite, Brookshire Creek, Bald River, Tellico River and the nearby fish hatchery, Whigg Meadow, the Cherohala Skyway crossing at Unicoi Crest Overlook, Bob Bald, Naked Ground, the Hangover, Tapoco and the Cheoah River, Fontana Village, the Little Tennessee River and Fontana Dam. The rivers are great places for pets and kids. The balds (generally about a mile high with expansive views) are a must. Fontana Dam, the highest dam east of the Mississippi River, is impressive. If great views are what you enjoy, plan your trip for the spring or fall when foliage does not block your views. Wildflowers abound in the late spring and breathtaking color in the fall.



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There are three ways to approach your adventure. The most common is to take a series of day hikes with a shuttle. The second is to backpack for several days. The third is to thru hike the BMT. With young kids, it's not advisable to plan difficult or long hikes at first. Keep the distance under about five miles with less than 1,000' elevation gain. You don't want them to sour on hiking and say they will never do it again. Be sure to plan fun things for the kids along the way – like playing in the creek.

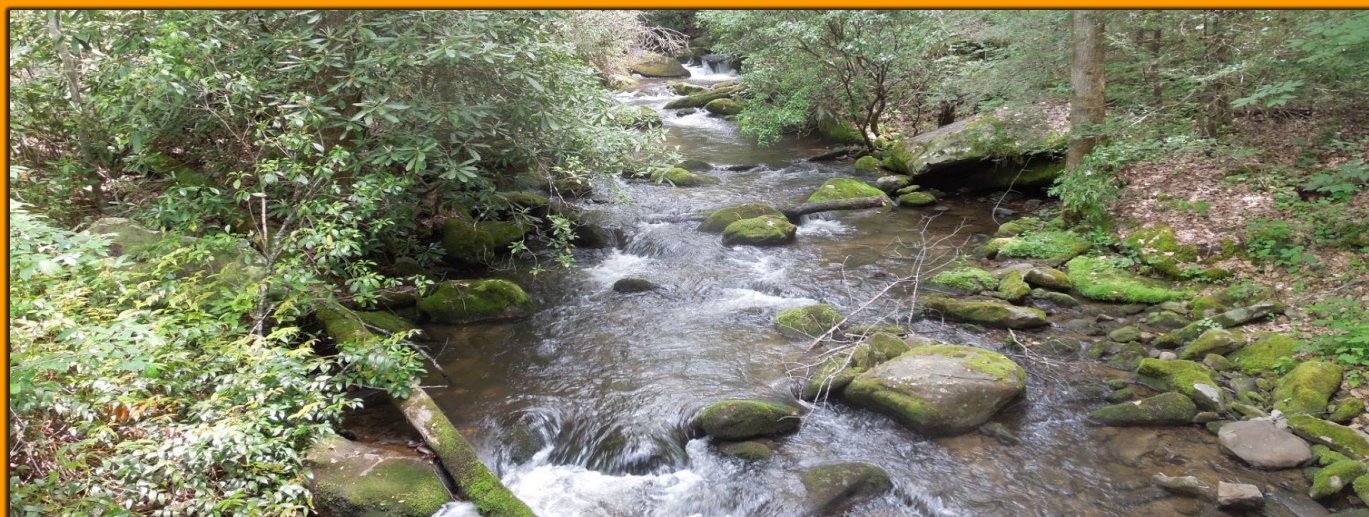
## A SERIES OF DAY HIKES

If you plan to cover the BMT using a series of day hikes, take a friend who can bring a second vehicle and set up a shuttle. Our BMT trail guides can be a great help for planning your hikes. The [guide for Tennessee and North Carolina](#) shows the location of places to park and describes the trail with a map, elevation profile and distances as well as a description of the hike. Use this information to judge the difficulty and how long the hike will take. As a bonus, the guide gives you historical information relating to the area along the trail along with a few pictures. Consider getting the trail guide entitled [Great Hikes and Backpack Trips near Tellico Plains TN](#), available online in BMTA's [Trail Store](#).

For a day hike, be sure to bring a lunch and plenty of water or a method of sterilizing your water. Bring food and water for your pet as well. Rain gear and sturdy hiking boots are essential. If you will be crossing streams without a bridge (and there are plenty of these), bring water shoes, extra dry socks and a small towel. Don't forget to include the [10 Essentials](#). Bring your cell phone to take pictures. Many areas of the BMT have no cell coverage, but if you need help, you have a chance of getting 911. An alternative is to carry an InReach or similar device to make an emergency contact in case of serious injury via satellite.

There are no blazes in Wilderness Areas. To keep you on your route, get an app for your phone that shows the trails and allows you to track your progress as you hike. Examples are the [FarOut](#) and [OnX Backcountry](#) as well as the [Avenza](#) apps that offer Trails Illustrated maps of the Tellico and Ocoee Rivers' area. These apps are an aid to navigation even when no cell coverage is available. However, hikers still should carry traditional maps and guides in case their cell phones are lost, damaged or lose charge. Be sure to let someone know where you are going and when you are expected back with specific instructions on what to do if you don't return on time. Notify your emergency contact once you get off the trail as soon as possible to assure them all is well.

When hiking, take breaks to catch your breath to enjoy the scenery and listen to the sounds of the forest. You are out there to enjoy nature, not to hike as fast as you can tromping through the woods with blinders on. Look around! You might see a deer, bear, boar, turkey, squirrels and even an armadillo (yes, they are becoming more common up here). Drink plenty of water, especially on hot days – about a liter or more for every four to five miles. You will burn a lot of calories, so stop for a snack every few miles and eat a hearty lunch.





### A WEEKEND OR FEW DAYS BACKPACK

This option allows you to cover a lot of ground in just a few days. For a beginner backpacker, join a group backpack to learn more about this great activity. The BMTA and local area hiking clubs as well as outdoor gear stores offer beginner backpacking classes combined with a one- or two-day easy backpack. Beginners should not plan to backpack more than five or eight miles each day. If you are an experienced backpacker, just go for it. Use the guides mentioned above to plan your trip. Get the [FarOut app](#) on your phone and download the BMT route. The app shows the places to get water, to camp and where to leave your car while backpacking. Use the app at home to plan your backpack, noting the distances and elevation profile to determine how difficult your trek may be. Typical backpack routes for a weekend or short backpacks are:

- ◆ Ocoee River to the Hiwassee River - 19 miles
- ◆ Hiwassee River to Unicoi Gap – 19 miles
- ◆ Unicoi Gap to Tellico River – 23.5 miles
- ◆ Tellico River to Beech Gap at the state line on the Cherohala Skyway – 23.5 miles
- ◆ Beech Gap to Tapoco Lodge – 15 miles
- ◆ Tapoco Lodge to Fontana Dam – 15 miles

### THRU HIKING THE BMT FROM THE OCOEE RIVER TO FONTANA DAM

Most thru hikers plan to hike this entire section of 103 miles over one to two weeks. Experienced thru hikers plan on about 15 miles per day. Beginner thru hikers should plan on no more than 8-10 miles per day. The best guide to use is the [BMT Thru-Hikers Guide](#) available from the BMTA online store. Although this guide is a few years old, it still provides pertinent information without any significant changes in the route. However, the thru hiker should check out the information on the [bmta.org](http://bmta.org) website for more up to date information. The book and the website also list available shuttle services. Contact them in advance to arrange your pickups and drop-offs. Most thru hikers carry enough food for five to seven days with a planned resupply at local stores or by mailing food to a post office or shuttle service along the route. The best places for resupply stores and lodging for zero days are in Ducktown and Tellico Plains. Happy hiking!!!



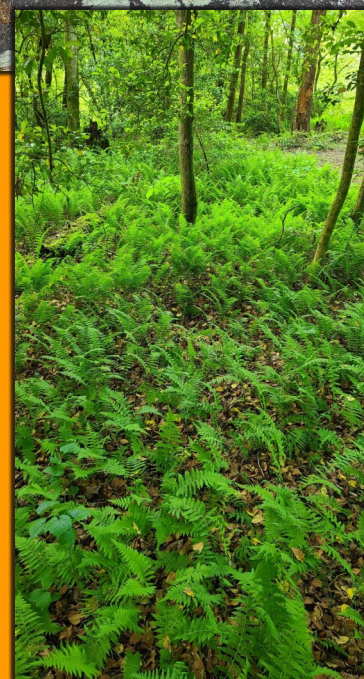
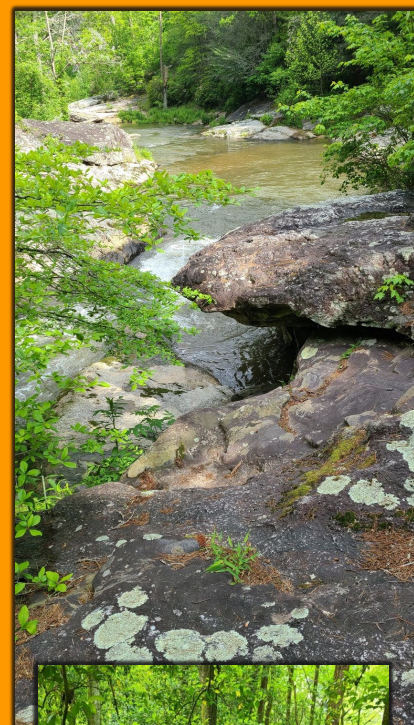


## Cartecay Shoals Hike

by Mike Pilvinsky

Betty Ann Archer, Bob Astley, Gilbert Treadwell, Beverly Murano and Laurie Colombo were led by Mike Pilvinsky to this little known, hidden gem on a beautiful spring day.

For less than two easy miles we wound our way along magnificent views provided by Clear Creek and the Cartecay River. It's almost too hard to believe that this breathtaking scenery is only about 20 minutes from downtown Ellijay. The trail doesn't even have a name as it is located inside Department of Natural Resources (DNR) property in the Cartecay Tract.



Beverly Murano, Mike Pilvinsky, Gilbert Treadwell, Laurie Colombo and Betty Ann Archer.



## BMTA Maintenance Trip

by Joe Cantwell

The weather was perfect for 25 BMTA maintainers on Saturday, May 11. The group split into four crews to clear and brush 11.1 miles of Sections 9 and 10.

Crew one, led by Barry Allen, tackled 12 blowdowns all in the wilderness area on Section 10a. Shane Morrison, Darcy Douglas and Art Kolberg provided the muscle on multiple crosscut saws. Bill Cox and Raymond Laws accompanied the saw crew brushing the trail as needed. At Bear Creek the beaver dam crossing continues to be challenging for hikers especially during high water. Additional logs were added on the north side of the dam to improve hiker footing.

Crew two worked Section 10b from Spanish Oak to Jacks River Trail. Ed Sullivan led the crosscut team of Bob Nelson and Brian Trinkle removing five blowdowns. Brushing of this section was accomplished by George Owen, Daphne, Kenny and Madison Martin along with Laurie Schatz.



Brian Trinkle and Ed Sullivan muscling the crosscut saw.  
Note the use of wedging to aid in an easier saw.



Brian Tinkle, Kenny Martin, Madison Martin and Ed moving stump off the trail so they can make a second cut to get the rest of the tree off the trail.

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**Daphne and Madison Martin working on the second cut after the stump had been removed safely. This cut became a bench by the trail. Two and half hours were spent on this tree. Removing the stump was a very long process that had to be done for safety.**



**Trail Critters!!**

The third crew concentrated on the trail from Spanish Oak to the Penitentiary Trail intersection. Utilizing swing blades, loppers and silky saws, Steve Bayliss, Bob Cowdrick, Ken Cissna, Marty Dominy and Dave and Sue Ricker did an excellent job brushing and clearing this portion of Section 10c.

The final crew worked outside the wilderness area from Dyer Gap to Watson Gap. Ian Guttridge, Andy Meeks and Steve Hayden worked together with chainsaws to remove 14 trees impacting the trail. Justin McNaught, Steve's guest and Joe Cantwell trimmed spring growth with weed eaters.

All crews reported a safe and productive workday. A total of 35 trees were removed from the trail, approximately six miles of brushing was accomplished in 201.5 work and travel hours.

A big thank you to all participants in continuing to make these maintenance trips an overwhelming success!



## BMT— Craddock Center to Indian Rocks Shelter

by Mike Pilvinsky

For about 4.4 moderate miles we hiked on the BMT from the Craddock Center to the Indian Rocks hiker shelter and returned. This is the only shelter on the BMT in Georgia. Along the way we stopped to investigate the only chapel on the BMT. The entire hike was on private property including woodland and roads inside Cherry Log Mountain development, also known as the “Sisson Property.”



Mike explained the importance of blazing.



Cascading streams added to the wonder of the hike.



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Jeannie Kirkland, Eleanor Meeker, Kent Meeker, Mike Pilvinsky, Kathy Williams, Ken Cissna, Marlene Stover, Ralph Collinson and David Stover standing in front of the chapel on the BMT. It is the only chapel on any trail in Georgia.



A small pond sits beside the chapel.



A succession of steps and stairs led us on.

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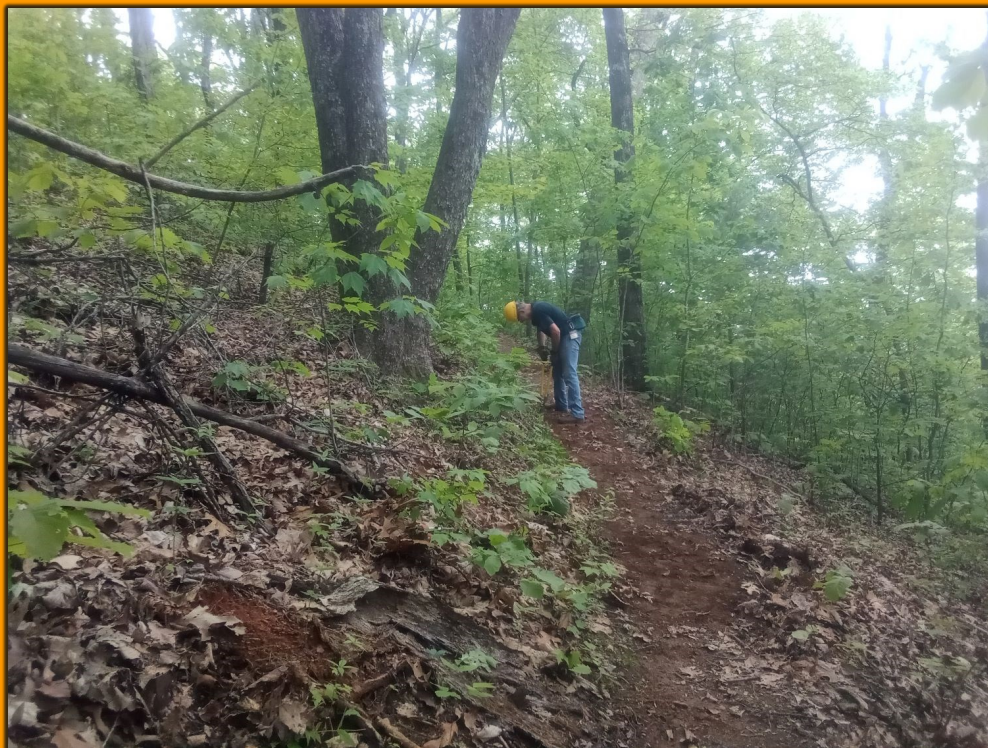
At the half-way point, we rested at the shelter. It was nice to show off the renovated shelter to several of the hikers who had never visited there. For those of us who worked on that renovation project, it gave us a nice lift as we bragged about the different features that we are so proud of. After working up an appetite, we headed for lunch and comradery at the Pink Pig!





## The Serene Solitude of Bushy Head Gap

by Steve Dennison



Section Maintainer John Oudin and I worked here two weeks prior. Today, Bill Cox and I dug dirt, rocks and root to better level the footpath.

Bill drives nearly 400 miles each way nine months each year doing nine BMTA maintenance trips as well as additional smaller work trips.

Over the last 10 years I've led or participated in many hikes Bushy head Gap to either Hudson or McKenny Gap. The steep slant and erosion of some trail areas has only gotten worse

## Pickens Nose Hike - Sunny Smiles!





## Blaze School - More Than Meets the Eye!



Stencils are a must. They must be flexible but able to withstand packing into a bucket and years of use. Darcy Douglas is explaining the tools needed to Kathy Gushwa at a recent training session.



The buckets to carry the tools and paint vary with each Blazer's preferences. Paint jars are locked with a plastic bag to prevent the lid from sticking as you move from tree to tree.



Kathy scrapes the area of the tree where the blaze will go. Blazes are at around five feet high where hikers can easily see them. Different trees have different barks and some are easier than others to blaze because of this.



After scraping, the stencil is placed and a marker outlines the blaze. Next is painting and you have your blaze!!



## Where in the world is Mike Pilvinsky?



Maintainer shirt!? Wow! You did a great job on those steps?!!!

See [page 20](#) To find out where this was taken.



## Warriors Passage Trail Hike

by Rick Harris

Five hikers, Rick Brenda Harris, Buddy Arnold, Terry Nadeau, Sandra Fenton, plus our dog Nahme, hiked about six miles from Waucheesi Mountain to Wildcat Creek then uphill to Furnace Road. The shuttle was long and rough due to the poor road conditions going up to Waucheesi Bald. In fact, we did not make it all the way to the Bald due to the very rutted roadway. We hiked down the road to the trailhead, then started descending the mountain on a series of excellent switchbacks through deep forest. We ate lunch at Tobe Creek, then continued our journey down to Wildcat Creek. The trail was in fairly good condition with only a scattering of downed trees. A few sections needed brushing out, but overall, the trail was in very good shape.



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The creek was thigh deep and swift but clear, even after all the recent rains of several inches. Nahme had a great time at both creek crossings which required us humans to don water shoes.



There is a lot of history on this trail. Long ago it was a major thoroughfare for the Cherokees. The trail today was built by Boy Scouts out of Knoxville in 1965, then was destroyed in places by arson fires, then reopened a few years ago by the Tellico/Ocoee Volunteer Trail Crew.

Info on the trail can be found at [www.warriorspassage.org](http://www.warriorspassage.org).



## In Search of Lady Slippers at Mulky Gap

by Joy Forehand / photos courtesy of David Ensley and Joy Forehand



Always magical, the pink lady slipper!

The Forest Service (FS) has a delicate balancing act when it comes to preventing uncontrolled wildfires versus preserving the flora and fauna of an area. This is the third year after the FS did a controlled burn at Mulky Gap (near Blairsville) when the lady slippers were blooming. The understory was charred, not a speck of green left.

Previously, there were so many ladies on the lower reaches of Akin Mountain — “large, pink wheat fields” were everywhere.

Twelve hikers ventured to Mulky Gap on May 1, 2024. They found only 200 – 250 blooming. And very few babies were coming up. Fortunately, the FS has put measures in place so that a controlled burn when the ladies are blooming will never be done again. But, to prevent future wildfires, the FS plans to do a controlled burn every three – five years. Sadly, this does not allow time for what were 15-foot flame azaleas to come back ... the mountain laurel, now forming a bush at the base of the original plant, probably will not bloom again.

The hikers continued their trek for the day to a lovely wildflower area on the other side of the road. The wildflowers (which were not included in the burn) were stunning – grandiflora trillium, showy orcus, bear corn, bells wort, round vasey's trillium and a field of sweet shrub in bloom.



Bear corn thrusting upward from the forest floor!



Sweet shrub brilliant burgundy delights!



# Upcoming Hikes and Maintenance Trips

by Kelly Motter, Hiking Director

## June



### June 8 (Saturday) BMTA Monthly Maintenance Trip.

Sections 12a, b - US 64 » Kimsey Highway

Contact Joe Cantwell at [bmtagamaintdirector@bmta.org](mailto:bmtagamaintdirector@bmta.org).

Contact Nelson Ashbrook at [bmtatn-ncmaintdirector@bmta.org](mailto:bmtatn-ncmaintdirector@bmta.org).

**June 11 (Tuesday)** Piney Knob Trails Murphy, NC. Rhodo-coaster Trail. Moderate 5 miles.

Contact Hike Leader Ralph Collinson at [bmtahikeleaderrc@bmta.org](mailto:bmtahikeleaderrc@bmta.org).

**June 15 (Saturday)** Watch the water arrive! Start at the Ocoee Whitewater Center and then hike the BMT from FS Rd 221 to Thunder Rock and perhaps see the rhododendrons in bloom. Easy 3.4 miles.

Contact Hike Leader Clare Sullivan at [bmtahikeleadercs2@bmta.org](mailto:bmtahikeleadercs2@bmta.org).

**June 16 (Sunday)** Standing Indian on the AT. This 5-mile moderately paced hike leads us to a beautiful overlook on the AT at over 5000 ft. Contact Hike Leader Kelly Motter at [bmtahikeleaderkm@bmta.org](mailto:bmtahikeleaderkm@bmta.org).

**June 21 (Friday)** Turtletown Creek Falls. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Moderate 5 miles. Turtletown Creek plus two of the most beautiful falls you'll ever see on a short hike.

Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at [bmtahikeleaderkc@bmta.org](mailto:bmtahikeleaderkc@bmta.org).

**June 24 (Monday)** Thunder Rock Campground Ocoee Whitewater Center. Rhododendron Trail to Chestnut Ridge Trail to Bear Paw Loop and return. Moderate 5 miles.

Contact Hike Leader Ralph Collinson at [bmtahikeleaderrc@bmta.org](mailto:bmtahikeleaderrc@bmta.org).

**June 24 (Monday)** Beech Gap on the Skyway.

Moderately/difficult 7 miles round trip with 900' climb. We will park at the state line at Beech Gap on the Skyway. The first 2 miles are on an old FS road with only minimal climbing. When we reach the end of the road, we will head up the BMT to Bob Bald, a climb of 900' and quite steep in places. Once we reach the top, we will enjoy the views and eat lunch, then head back to Beech Gap on the Skyway.

Contact Hike leaders Rick and Brenda Harris at [bmtahikeleaderrh@bmta.org](mailto:bmtahikeleaderrh@bmta.org) or text 513-260-1184 if you plan to attend.

## July

**July 1 (Monday)** Trails at Jack Rabbit. Moderate 5-6 miles.

Contact Hike Leader Ralph Collinson at [bmtahikeleaderrc@bmta.org](mailto:bmtahikeleaderrc@bmta.org).

**July 12 (Friday)** BMT Lost Creek Section. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Easy 6 miles. Beautiful walk along Big Lost Creek. One stream crossing will probably get your feet a little wet so come prepared. Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at [bmtahikeleaderkc@bmta.org](mailto:bmtahikeleaderkc@bmta.org).





**July 13 (Saturday)** BMTA Monthly Maintenance Trip. TBA  
 Contact Joe Cantwell at [bmtagaintdirector@bmta.org](mailto:bmtagaintdirector@bmta.org).  
 Contact Nelson Ashbrook at [bmtatn-ncmaintdirector@bmta.org](mailto:bmtatn-ncmaintdirector@bmta.org).

**July 13 (Saturday)** Waucheesi Creek. Moderate 6.7 miles, but with 11 stream crossings. We will leave vehicles at the Bald River Road trailhead near the Holly Flats CG, then a long shuttle to Sandy Gap on the BMT. We will hike mainly downhill to the lower trailhead. At about mile 3, we reach the first stream crossing on Waucheesi Creek, then cross this creek and Kirkland Creek. The last crossing is across the Bald River. Come prepared with water shoes, extra socks and a towel. We will eat lunch at the first stream crossing. Long shuttle back to our vehicles. Contact Hike leaders Rick and Brenda Harris at [bmtahikeleaderrh@bmta.org](mailto:bmtahikeleaderrh@bmta.org) or text 513-260-1184 if you plan to attend.

**July 26 (Friday)** Cartecay River Loop Trails. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Moderate 5-6 miles, much of it along the beautiful Cartecay River.  
 Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at [bmtahikeleaderkc@bmta.org](mailto:bmtahikeleaderkc@bmta.org).

## August

**August 2 (Friday)** Bear Creek Trail. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Moderate 7 miles. Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at [bmtahikeleaderkc@bmta.org](mailto:bmtahikeleaderkc@bmta.org).



**August 10 (Saturday)** BMTA Monthly Maintenance Trip. TBA  
 Contact Joe Cantwell at [bmtagaintdirector@bmta.org](mailto:bmtagaintdirector@bmta.org).  
 Contact Nelson Ashbrook at [bmtatn-ncmaintdirector@bmta.org](mailto:bmtatn-ncmaintdirector@bmta.org).

**August 12 (Monday)** Whigg Meadow. Mildly moderate 2.6 miles, 500' climb. We will drive to the Mud Gap Trailhead of the BMT at mile 3.5 on the North Carolina side of the Skyway. We will hike on an old roadbed steadily uphill to the 5000' summit of Whigg Meadow, a large wide open bald with expansive views into the surrounding mountains. We will eat lunch there then return. Contact Hike leaders Rick and Brenda Harris at [bmtahikeleaderrh@bmta.org](mailto:bmtahikeleaderrh@bmta.org) or text 513-260-1184 if you plan to attend.

**August 16 (Friday)** Emery Creek. Moderate 5 miles.

This in-and-out hike is fairly easy, but 26 stream crossings (a number up to your ankles and two around your knees) and a section of potentially slippery rock toward the beginning and again at the end make it more difficult than it otherwise would be. Holly and Emery Creeks, two lovely waterfalls, and a beautiful trail make it worth the trouble. Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at [bmtahikeleaderkc@bmta.org](mailto:bmtahikeleaderkc@bmta.org).

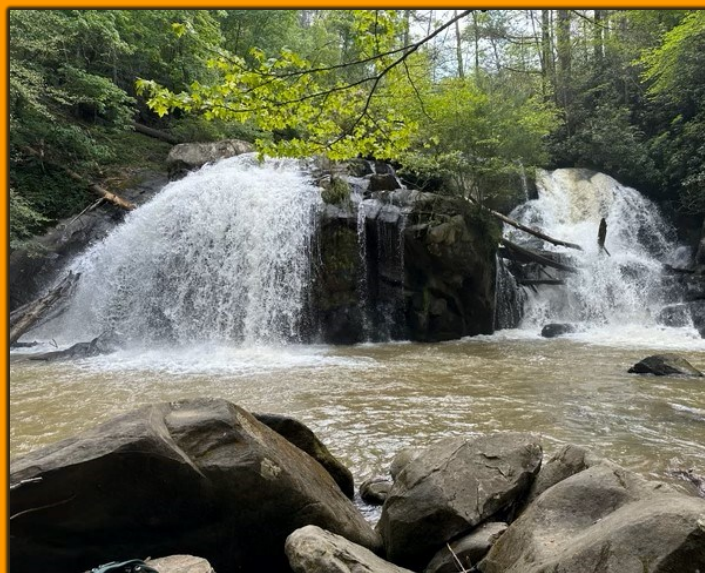
To access our website calendar, go [HERE](#).

**Where in the world is Mike Pilvinsky? Mike is hiking on the Great Wall of China!**



## The Stunning Cascades of Turtletown Creek Falls!

Photos courtesy of Jeannie Kirkland



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The deadline for the July Newsletter is Wednesday, June 26.  
Thank you!